

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00
EB-08 FMC-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-09
AID-05 SS-15 NSC-05 SAA-01 SES-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00
ICA-11 PA-01 SP-02 NEAE-00 /103 W
-----103622 141507Z /42

R 121445Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9642
USDOC WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMCONSUL GENOA

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ATHENS FOR RTDO

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EWWT LE CGEN
SUBJ: BEIRUT PORT: NO WAR, NO PEACE

1. BEIRUT PORT CONTINUES TO POSE THIS EMBASSY WITH A
DILEMMA. THE UNDERLYING FACT IS THAT THE PORT IS NEITHER
ENTIRELY SAFE NOR UNSAFE ON ANY GIVEN DAY; SOME DAYS IT
OPERATES AND SHIPS ENTER IT TO DISCHARGE CARGO; OTHER
DAYS IT COMES UNDER ATTACK AND MUST CLOSE. FOR EXAMPLE:
THE AMERICAN-FLAG GRAIN SHIP TEX DISCHARGED PL-480 GRAIN
PEACEFULLY LAST WEEK UNTIL MORTAR OR ROCKET FIRE INTO THE
PORT NEAR MIDNIGHT SEPTEMBER 9 OBLIGED IT TO MOVE OFFSHORE,
WHERE IT IS NOW ANCHORED WITH SOME 1,500 TONS OF GRAIN YET
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TO DISCHARGE.

2. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT AMERICAN SHIPS AND CREWS SHOULD
BE FULLY AWARE THAT THERE IS POTENTIAL DANGER IN BEIRUT
PORT EVEN WHEN PORT IS OPEN AND OPERATING. THE DANGER
IS SPORADIC AND UNPREDICTABLE, DEPENDING ON THE WHIMS
OF MILITIAMEN AND PERHAPS SYRIAN ADF SOLDIERS WHO CAN

TAKE IT INTO THEIR HEADS FROM TIME TO TIME TO LOB AN RPG OR A MORTAR INTO THE PORT AREA. ON THE OTHER HAND, FOR US TO BLACKBALL BEIRUT PORT TO U.S. SHIPPING BY A FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT MIGHT WELL FURNISH A PRETEXT TO INSURERS AND SHIPOWNERS WORLDWIDE TO CUT OFF SEABORNE TRAFFIC TO BEIRUT AND PERHAPS LEBANON'S OTHER PORTS, AN ACTION THAT WOULD FURTHER CONSTRICT THE STATE'S ECONOMY AT A DIFFICULT HOUR IN ITS OVERALL AFFAIRS. WE HAVE INTER-SECTING RESPONSIBILITIES HERE, ON THE ONE HAND TO INSTILL CAUTION IN U.S. PERSONS, ON THE OTHER TO AVOID CREATING CONDITIONS THAT WILL FURTHER WEAKEN LEBANON'S ECONOMY. WE ARE MINDFUL ALSO THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR THROUGH SHIP OWNERS AND INSURERS HAS THE PRIMARY INTEREST IN CONVEYING TO INDIVIDUAL VESSELS BOUND FOR LEBANON THE DANGERS OF THE PORT.

3. IF U.S. SHIPPERS QUERY THE DEPARTMENT OR ADDRESSEE POSTS ON CONDITIONS AT BEIRUT, WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING POINTS BE MADE IN REPLY: (1) BEIRUT PORT IS INTERMITTENTLY SUBJECT TO DANGER, (2) ANY VESSEL PROCEEDING TO BEIRUT SHOULD MAINTAIN CLOSEST CONTACT WITH ITS LOCAL AGENT AND OWNER REPRESENTATIVE REGARDING SECURITY CONDITIONS IN BEIRUT, AND (3) THE USG DOES NOT AT THIS TIME RECOMMEND THAT U.S.-FLAG SHIPS CANCEL VOYAGES TO BEIRUT.

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DECONTROL 12/31/81.
PARKER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CARGO HANDLING, PORT FACILITIES, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT05311
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780374-0219
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780974/aaaaciuc.tel
Line Count: 96
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c6dbdf51-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1459079
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BEIRUT PORT: NO WAR, NO PEACE
TAGS: EWWT, CGEN, LE
To: STATE COM
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c6dbdf51-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
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